



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

MINUTES

MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

LARA – Ottawa Building, 4th Floor Training Room (Room 407)
611 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, Michigan 48933
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
1:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Beeson, Michigan Townships Association
Kurt Corradi, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
David Feichtner, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Robert Stokes, Chairperson, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Kyle Svoboda, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joseph Schehr, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Macie Smith, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division, Recording Secretary
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal
Aileen Pettinger, Region 2 Training Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Training Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Mauricio Barrera, Public Assembly Fire Safety Inspector

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Terry Blackmer, Port Huron Fire Department
Tracy Chamberlain, Green Oak Township Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Randy Case, Bay City Department of Public Safety
Cameron Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Scott Tobey, Safe Response
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Jack Johnson, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Greg Miller, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Greg Mowbray, Brighton Area Fire Authority

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Stokes called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Macie Smith. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

23-10-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the October 17, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

23-10-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Beeson** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to approve the August 8, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.
Abstention: Councilperson Blomstrom. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a) **FY23 & FY24 Course Summaries:** Council was provided with updated course summaries for FY23 and FY24 in their meeting packet. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an overview of the handouts.
- b) **FY23 Exam Totals:** Council was provided with graphs in their meeting packet. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that during FY23 the Fire Fighter Training Division sent out 437 exam packets and graded 703 exams. All exams were graded on average within 1 day of the bureau receiving the packet in the office. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier thanked staff for their hard work grading and sending out exams.
- c) **Fire Instructor III:** On September 28, 2023, the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) held the first Fire Instructor III Train-the-Trainer in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, which was attended by eight people (instructors). Fire Marshal Sehlmeier referred to R29.405d(8) of the [Firefighters Training Council General Rules](#) and advised that starting November 3, 2024, a person must be a Fire Instructor III to teach Fire Instructor II courses.
- d) **FY23 Courses Funded with Returned Fireworks Funds:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier reported the available balance in SMOKE at the end of FY23 was \$0.00. Since January 1, 2023 when the unencumbered funds were pulled back, a total of \$188,167.16 was used to fund 40 courses (\$101,999.93 for 25 certification courses and \$30,103.61 for 12 mental health courses). After the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) regular meeting on August 8, 2023, another \$20,682.12 was used to fund three more courses and a total of \$35,381.50 was used to purchase mannequins. The Fire Marshal thanked council for being given the ability to use this funding after the August 8th

meeting (Motion #23-08-05) as \$10,000.00 was returned to the BFS on September 20, 2023.

- e) **Fatal Fire Update:** As of October 16, 2023, there were 92 fire deaths in 84 fires. This is a 5% increase in deaths and a 15% increase in fires based on the 2017-2022 average.
- f) **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments:** Council was provided with an updated list of non-reporting departments in their meeting packet. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier advised there are 95 departments that have not submit any fire reports in the 2023 calendar year and are not eligible to use Fireworks Safety Fees for training until they become compliant.
- g) **FY23 Annual Training Needs Surveys:** As of October 17, 2023, a total of 68 annual training needs surveys have been received from the county training committees. The following 15 counties have not submitted their annual training needs survey and therefore, are not eligible to receive FY24 county funding: Alcona, Alger, Arenac, Baraga, Cass, Gogebic, Iron, Kalamazoo, Luce, Mackinac, Menominee, Montmorency, Presque Isle, Sanilac, and Shiawassee. The BFS has used many forms of communication (phone calls, emails, and memos) to reach the county chairpersons. Council suggests sending a message via SMOKE to those in the above listed counties (not just the county chairperson) explaining why they are not receiving the funding.
- h) **Returned Funding:** A discussion was started regarding the use of returned/unallocated FY24 funding after January 1, 2024. Council asks for this topic to be added to the December 1, 2023 MFFTC regular meeting agenda.
- i) **Next Wednesday Wrap Ups:** Reminder all Wednesday Wrap Ups now occurring monthly instead of every two weeks.
 - i. October 18, 2023 at 4:00pm – Guest Speaker Dr. Kenneth Fent
 - ii. November 8, 2023 at 4:00pm

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom reported the Curriculum Committee met and validated the Fire Instructor III exam questions.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Proposed 2024 MFFTC Meeting Schedule:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the Bureau of Fire Services is required to submit a meeting schedule by November 1, 2023. Discussion was had about locations of the 2024 meetings.

23-10-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **adopt** the proposed 2024 MFFTC Meeting Schedule. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. FY24 Funding:

23-10-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to **approve** the disbursement of \$2.3 million for FY24 funding. Discussion was had on the process of changing the amount disbursed in the future. **Abstention: Fire Marshal Sehlmeier. MOTION CARRIED.**

c. Q Course Applications:

Vehicle Extrication A to Z (**FMQ23-030**)

Instructors: Gregory Miller

Phone: 616-328-1225

SafeResponse.com (Online Awareness Training for First Responders)

(**FMQ23-031**)

Instructor: www.SafeResponse.com

Phone: 517-881-9501

Live Fire Instruction (**FMQ23-032**)

Instructor: Curtis Walters or AHJ Approved Instructor

Phone: 231-313-6293

Fundamentals of Thermal Imagery (**FMQ23-033**)

Instructor: Training to Perform Under Pressure, LLC

Phone: 239-810-1176

Thermal Imager Operations (**FMQ23-034**)

Instructor: Training to Perform Under Pressure, LLC

Phone: 239-810-1176

Certified Peer Support Training (**FMQ23-035**)

Instructor: Richard T Janka Psy D

Phone: 313-310-2039

Culture in the Firehouse; are we fostering a welcoming environment?

(**FMQ23-036**)

Instructor: Doug DeBest

Phone: 269-759-4848

23-10-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ23-030 through FMQ23-036**. Discussion was had regarding the timeline of Q Course application **FMQ23-032. MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Scott Tobey, Safe Response thanked Council for approving the Q Course Application for SafeResponse.com. He had several conversations with the Fire Marshal before COVID regarding these courses but was halted at the time. Working to make all programs available through MABAS for fire departments using that system. Training topics will include SCBA

Refresher, Blood Borne Pathogens, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Ice Rescue Awareness, Machinery Rescue Awareness, Rope Rescue Awareness, Structural Collapse Rescue Awareness, Trench Rescue Awareness, and Water Rescue Awareness. Thanked Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer for his support through this approval process.

Greg Mowbray, Brighton Area Fire Authority thanked Council for hosting the meeting and stated he would like to see a review of the funds allocated for instructors matching the current training hours.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer shared that he and Dan Hammerberg ran a Fire Instructor II Course in August and September 2023 in the Upper Peninsula. The bureau had made significant changes to the course based off suggested changes and feedback from instructors and council. They did not use a single PowerPoint slide but facilitated virtual conversations five different times. The class average for this course was an 83% and every student passed. The Fire Marshal and Dan found that this method seemed to flow much better than in the past.

In response to the public comment, the Fire Marshal explained the five to one ratio applies to Fire Fighter I and II per the rules. He stated this is something that council can look at in the future; however, if the hours are adjusted, this could also lead to each county receiving less funding spend on other items if the overall allocation to each county was not also increased. He added the \$2.3 million was never supposed to cover all training fees across Michigan.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer thanked everyone for traveling to Lansing for the meeting and shared he is looking forward to the next meeting in Traverse City.

ADJOURNMENT:

23-10-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

APPROVED: